

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE COMPLETION OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF): A CASE OF THREE SELECTED WARDS IN VUBWI CONSTITUENCY, EASTERN PROVINCE OF ZAMBIA

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Abstract

This study investigated the factors that influence the completion of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) projects in Vubwi Constituency. A descriptive survey research design was employed and a mixed methods approach was utilized. The target population for this study comprised community members from Vubwi, Mlawe, and Mbozi wards in Vubwi District, Zambia. 105 individuals aged 18 and above who were responsible for managing Community Development Fund (CDF) projects participated in this study. Data was collected questionnaires and interviews. The study established that despite consistent and timely disbursement of funds, poor monitoring, limited stakeholder involvement, and inadequate financial resources hinder project completion. The study recommends enhancing monitoring by employing officers, improving stakeholder participation, and increasing financial allocations for CDF projects.

Key words: *Key Words: Constituency Development Fund (CDF), CDF Committee, Stakeholders, Monitoring and Evaluation Processes, Political influence and Availability Financial Resources.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in Zambia was introduced in 1995 to support local authorities in delivering essential social services such as education, health, water and sanitation, agriculture, and infrastructure development (Hapompwe, 2020; Shaban, 2021). Over the years, the scope of the CDF has expanded, with increased budgetary allocations aimed at enhancing community development, entrepreneurship, and access to education for vulnerable groups

(Republic of Zambia, 2022). The budgetary allocation has seen significant increases, rising from K1,600,000.00 in 2021 to K30,635,641.96 in 2024 (Republic of Zambia, 2024). This expansion underscores the government's commitment to improving local development through direct community funding.

Despite its potential to drive grassroots development, the implementation of CDF projects in Zambia and other developing countries has faced challenges. Hussein (2018) highlights key issues such as fund mismanagement, political interference, delayed project completion, and inadequate planning. In a regional context, studies by Juliah (2016), Ngiri (2016), and Paul (2016) reveal concerns related to limited community involvement, failure to align projects with local needs, and unequal distribution of developmental initiatives. Kigotho (2016) further identifies mismanagement of funds as a recurring problem, while Ngiri (2016) emphasizes the importance of strategic planning elements such as stakeholder participation, financial oversight, and risk management in ensuring successful project completion.

In Zambia, similar concerns have been raised in official reports. The 2022 Auditor General's report on the management of CDF projects documented 51 cases of inefficiencies, particularly delays in project completion (Republic of Zambia, 2023). Additionally, previous studies on CDF implementation have primarily focused on its impact on community development. For instance, Lewanika (2019) examined the role of CDF in Nalolo Constituency, while Hapompwe, Kukano, and Siwale (2020) investigated its effects on rural education and health development in Rufunsa Constituency. These studies highlight the significance of CDF in fostering development but also indicate the need for a deeper understanding of factors that affect project completion.

This study sought to examine the key factors that influenced the completion of community projects funded under the CDF in Zambia.

1.1 Statement of the problem

The completion of CDF projects in Zambia has been persistently delayed, as evidenced by the Auditor General's report for the financial year ending December 31, 2022, which cited 51 cases of failure to complete projects on time (Republic of Zambia, 2022). Similar concerns have been raised in previous reports from 2017 to 2020, highlighting recurring weaknesses in stakeholder participation, monitoring and evaluation, and financial resource management. Despite these challenges, limited studies have explored the factors determining project completion. While research has focused on other aspects, such as the impact of CDF on community development (Lewanika, 2019) and rural development (Hapompwe et al., 2020), there remains a need to investigate the underlying causes of project delays.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to explore factor influencing the delay in the completion of projects funded under constituency development fund (CDF) in three selected wards in Vubwi District, Eastern province, Zambia.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- i. To determine factors influencing the completion of community projects funded by the CDF in Vubwi District.
- ii. To establish challenges faced by the Local Authority in disbursing CDF funds.
- iii. To determine strategies that can be put in place to improve the completion of CDF projects.

1.4 Conceptual Framework

The study was guided by a conceptual framework adapted from Rukwaro (2018) and revised in 2024, which posits that four key independent variables—stakeholder participation, monitoring and evaluation, risk management, and financial resources—directly influence the completion of CDF projects, the dependent variable. The framework suggests that the extent and effectiveness of these factors determine how well CDF projects are managed and completed within constituencies. A strong presence of stakeholder participation, effective monitoring and evaluation, sound risk management, and adequate financial resources enhance project completion, whereas deficiencies in these areas contribute to delays and inefficiencies.

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study was significant as it examined the factors that influence the completion of CDF-funded community projects in Vubwi District, providing insights into the challenges affecting project implementation. While Auditor General reports highlight delays in project completion, they do not analyze the underlying causes, making this study valuable in addressing that gap. The findings would inform key stakeholders, including the government, about areas needing improvement to enhance project efficiency. Additionally, the study would contribute to the existing body of knowledge on CDF project management, offering practical recommendations for policy formulation and advocacy. It would also create opportunities for further research on related aspects of CDF project completion.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Factors Influencing the Completion of Community Projects Funded by CDF in Vubwi District

Completion of community projects is influenced by multiple factors, ranging from financial resources to stakeholder engagement. Globally, effective project planning and execution are critical for project success. For instance, Kiggundu (2012) emphasizes the importance of involving local stakeholders in the planning stages, noting that when communities are engaged, projects are more relevant and sustainable. In the regional context, many African countries have faced challenges in completing community projects due to inadequate planning and financial mismanagement. According to Mwanza (2016), projects in rural Zambian constituencies often face delays due to the lack of proper monitoring and financial constraints. In Vubwi District, these factors are compounded by limited resources, making project completion even more difficult. Stakeholder involvement and timely funding are essential to ensure that community projects reach completion (Cronin, 2011).

The availability of financial resources is another critical factor in project completion. Globally, project success often hinges on the consistent allocation and disbursement of funds. Thomas and Blomquist (2008) argue that financial bottlenecks can lead to project abandonment or delays. Similarly, in Zambia, financial mismanagement and delays in fund disbursement have been identified as significant barriers to completing CDF-funded projects (Zambia National Audit Office, 2021). Local authorities in districts like Vubwi face these challenges, resulting in projects being left incomplete due to funding delays or misallocation. To mitigate these issues, it is crucial for CDF to streamline its financial processes and ensure that funds are disbursed timely and efficiently.

The role of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is also central to the successful completion of CDF projects. Globally, the lack of a robust M&E system is known to negatively impact project outcomes. Cronin (2011) asserts that effective monitoring can identify potential challenges early, allowing for corrective actions. In Zambia, the absence of adequate M&E systems has resulted in poor oversight of CDF projects, leading to project delays and failures (Hanangama, 2016). In Vubwi District, monitoring and evaluation have been identified as weak, contributing to inefficiencies in project management. Strengthening M&E processes would provide accountability and ensure that projects are completed within the expected timeframes.

2.2. Challenges Faced by the Local Authority in Disbursing CDF Funds

The local authority in Zambia faces several challenges in disbursing CDF funds, which affect the timely completion of projects. Globally, the management of public funds is a complex task that requires transparency and accountability. According to Thomas and Blomquist (2008), political interference and inefficient financial management can impede the smooth disbursement of funds.

In the regional context, African countries often struggle with bureaucratic delays and corruption, which slow down the allocation of resources to development projects (Kiggundu, 2012). In Zambia, the local authorities face logistical issues such as delays in the release of funds from central government to districts, affecting the implementation of community projects (Zambia National Audit Office, 2021).

One of the most pressing challenges for local authorities is limited human and material resources. In Vubwi District, the shortage of staff, especially M&E officers, hinders the ability to track the progress of CDF-funded projects. Mwanza (2016) highlights that understaffing and lack of resources in local authorities can lead to poor financial management and delay in fund disbursements. Furthermore, inadequate transportation options, such as the lack of motor vehicles for monitoring, further complicate the process of fund disbursement (Zambia National Audit Office, 2021). These logistical challenges make it difficult for local authorities to effectively manage CDF funds and ensure timely project completion.

Political involvement in the disbursement of funds is another challenge that affects local authorities' ability to effectively allocate CDF resources. As observed by Thomas and Blomquist (2008), political considerations often influence the allocation of funds, sometimes diverting resources to politically favorable areas instead of those most in need. This politicization of funds has been seen in Zambia, where local government leaders have faced criticism for using CDF for political gain rather than community development (Mwanza, 2016). In Vubwi, political interference has been identified as a major obstacle in the efficient distribution of CDF funds, leading to delays in funding for critical projects.

2.3. Strategies for Improving the Completion of CDF Projects

To improve the completion of CDF projects, several strategies can be implemented. Globally, effective project management requires strategic planning, adequate funding, and stakeholder participation. According to Kiggundu (2012), the integration of stakeholder involvement in all stages of project planning and implementation can significantly enhance project success. In the regional context, African nations have adopted participatory approaches to development, ensuring that local communities play an active role in project planning (Hanangama, 2016). In Zambia, the involvement of local communities in CDF project planning could reduce delays and ensure that projects are aligned with the needs of the community. Increasing the role of Ward Development Committees (WDCs) in project oversight would help achieve this.

Financial management is another area that requires improvement. Cronin (2011) suggests that timely disbursement and the allocation of sufficient funds are crucial for project success. Similarly, in Zambia, increasing the financial resources allocated to CDF and ensuring that funds are disbursed in a timely manner would greatly improve the completion of projects (Zambia National Audit Office, 2021). The recent increase in CDF allocations for 2022 is a step in the right direction,

but more needs to be done to ensure that funds are allocated based on community needs rather than political considerations. The establishment of clear financial management guidelines would ensure better fund utilization and avoid delays.

Improving monitoring and evaluation processes is another vital strategy. Globally, the use of robust M&E systems is known to improve project outcomes by ensuring accountability and transparency. Cronin (2011) highlights that regular monitoring of projects helps detect problems early and implement corrective actions. In Zambia, there is a need to strengthen M&E systems at the local level to track project progress and ensure that funds are utilized effectively. In Vubwi, increasing the capacity of M&E officers, providing them with adequate resources, and improving data collection mechanisms would help address delays and inefficiencies in project management.

2.4. Political Influence on CDF Project Completion

Political influence plays a significant role in the success or failure of CDF projects. Globally, political interference in public projects often leads to delays and inefficiencies. Thomas and Blomquist (2008) found that political involvement can skew project priorities, resulting in the implementation of projects that benefit political elites rather than the broader community. In the African context, political patronage often dictates the allocation of resources, which can undermine the effectiveness of development projects (Kiggundu, 2012). In Zambia, political influence has been cited as a major factor hindering the completion of CDF projects, with local politicians often using CDF for political gain rather than focusing on community needs (Mwanza, 2016).

In Vubwi District, political influence has led to delays in project completion due to misaligned priorities between the local government and the community. Political pressure to prioritize certain areas or projects based on electoral considerations rather than development needs has often resulted in the misallocation of CDF resources (Zambia National Audit Office, 2021). This issue is compounded by a lack of transparency in the allocation and use of CDF funds, which creates an environment ripe for misuse and delays. The involvement of politicians in CDF project decision-making can lead to conflicts of interest, further complicating the effective completion of community projects.

To mitigate the negative effects of political influence, strict regulations and laws governing the management of CDF funds need to be enacted. Thomas and Blomquist (2008) argue that transparency in decision-making and clear guidelines for the allocation of resources can help reduce political interference. In Zambia, the introduction of legislative frameworks that clearly define project selection criteria, as well as robust procurement procedures, would ensure that political considerations do not overshadow community development needs. This would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of CDF-funded projects.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research design

The study employed a descriptive survey research design to examine factors contributing to the delayed completion of CDF-funded community projects in Vubwi District, Zambia. This design enabled the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data, providing a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon. A mixed-methods approach was used to triangulate findings and enhance the study's validity and reliability (Creswell, 2014).

3.2. Research site

The study was conducted in Vubwi, Mlawe, and Mbozi wards in Vubwi District, Zambia, which offered a mix of urban and rural characteristics, ideal for exploring the factors influencing delayed completion of community projects. These areas represented diverse socio-economic backgrounds, providing a comprehensive understanding of the research topic.

3.3. Population, Sample and Sampling procedure

The target population for this study comprised community members from Vubwi, Mlawe, and Mbozi wards in Vubwi District, Zambia, with an estimated total of 2,000 individuals. The sample size was set at 110 participants, with 105 individuals aged 18 and above who were responsible for managing Community Development Fund (CDF) projects. Stratified random sampling was employed, where the population was divided into strata based on the selected wards. Within each stratum, households were randomly selected, and eligible participants were chosen. This sampling method ensured a representative sample of individuals involved in CDF projects.

3.4. Data Analysis

Data analysis in this study involved both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative data from surveys were analyzed using SPSS and Excel, with descriptive and inferential statistics employed to examine relationships between variables. Qualitative data from interviews were analyzed through thematic analysis, identifying key themes and patterns.

3.5. Ethical Issues

Ethical issues in this study were central to ensuring the protection and well-being of participants. Ethical clearance was obtained from the relevant review board, ensuring compliance with institutional and regulatory standards. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, providing them with detailed information about the study's purpose and procedures. Confidentiality and anonymity were strictly maintained, with all data securely stored and accessible only to authorized personnel. Participants' rights to voluntary participation and

withdrawal without consequences were emphasized. The research was conducted with respect for participants' autonomy and dignity, ensuring cultural sensitivity and minimizing potential harm.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. Planning and identification affect completion of CDF projects

The findings presented in figure 1 below indicated that 44.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that planning and identification of projects affected their completion. The others were 26.7% who disagreed, 15.2% were not sure, 11.4% agreed and 1.9% strongly disagreed to the survey. This showed that the majority of the respondents viewed planning and identification of projects to be important.

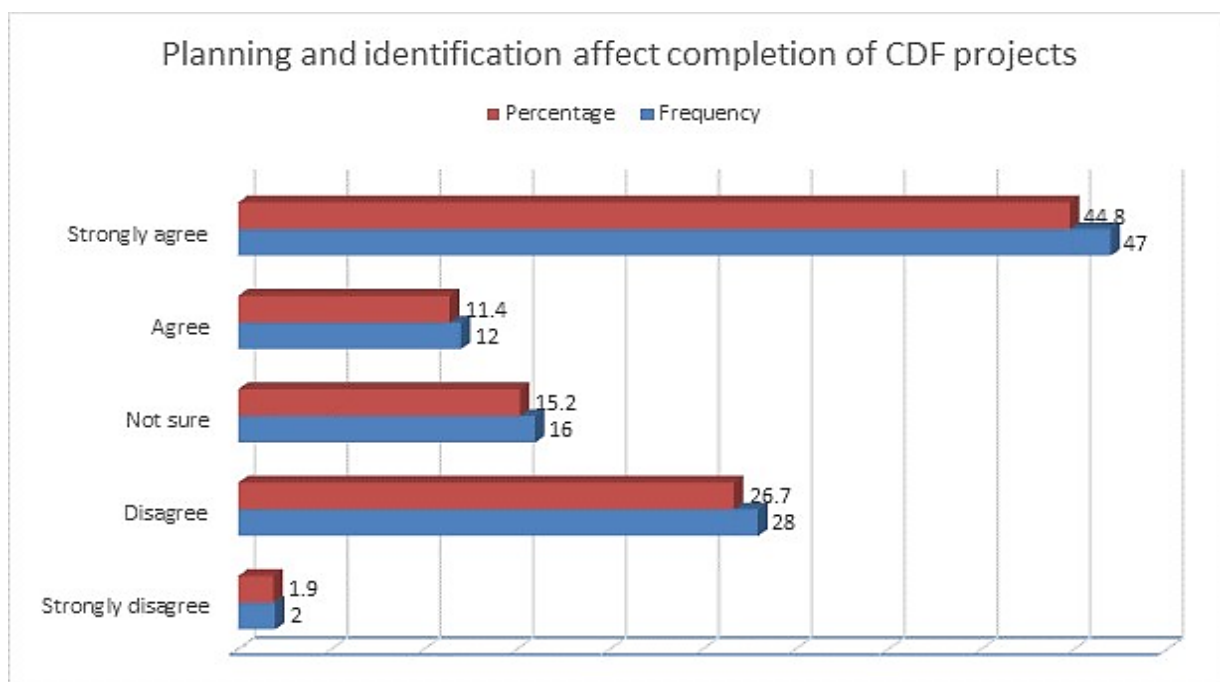


Figure 1: Planning and identification affect completion of CDF projects

Source: Survey, 2024

The findings highlighted that when planning and identification of projects is held with all stakeholders, completion of projects is usually successfully done. Therefore, the noninvolvement of all stakeholders in planning and identification of the CDF projects may affect their completion negatively. The study's results align with the literature that emphasizes the importance of inclusive planning. According to Kiggundu (2012), when planning involves local stakeholders, projects tend to be more relevant, and the community is more committed to their success.

4.2. Allocation of CDF affect completion of projects

The allocation of funds is one of the important elements to the completion of CDF projects. The funds allocated should be adequate and timely disbursed for effective completion of CDF projects. The findings from the study revealed that 36% of the respondents strongly agreed that allocation of CDF affects the completion of projects, and 35% agreed while 11% were not sure, 10% disagreed, 8% strongly disagreed and 12% were not sure (Figure 2).

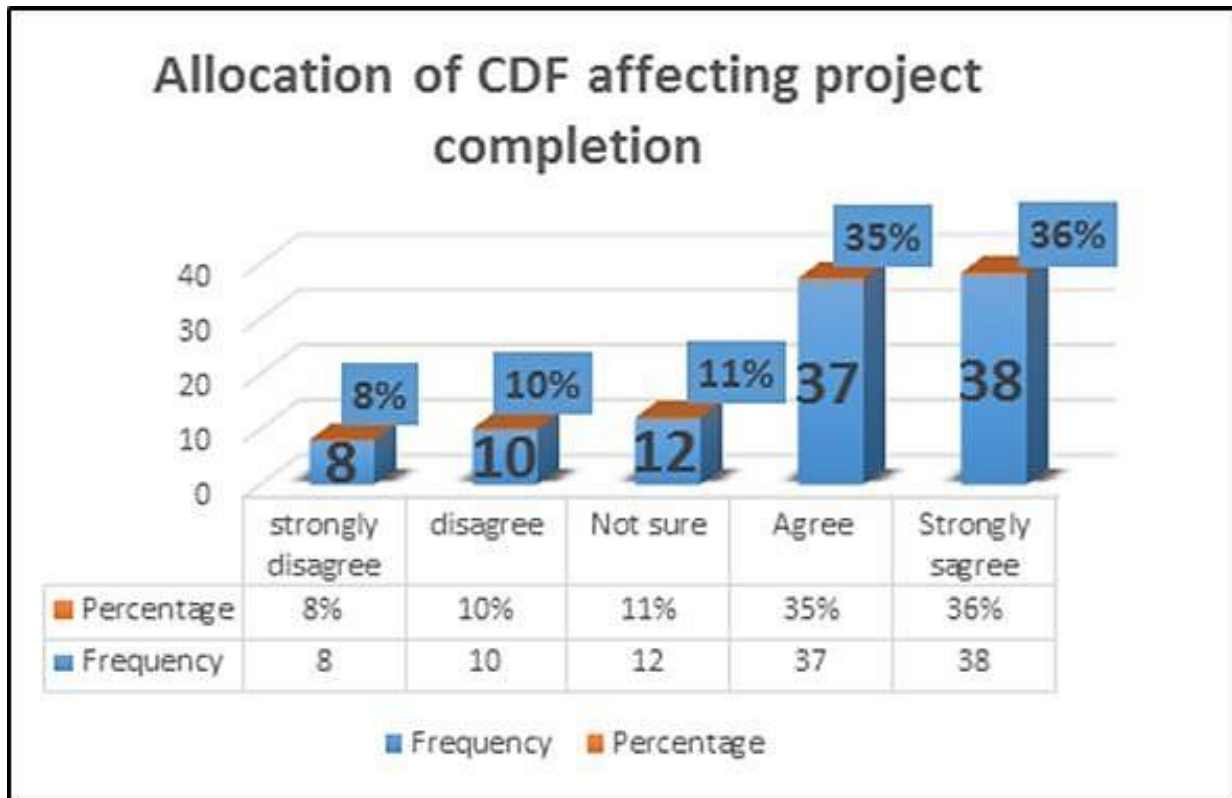


Figure 2: Allocation of CDF affect completion of projects

Source: Survey, 2024

The study disclosed that the frequency and amounts allocated to CDF projects affected their completion. These findings are consistent with the work of Cronin (2011), who noted that financial resources are a critical determinant of project success. Cronin’s study found that projects that faced financial bottlenecks often struggled to meet their deadlines and quality standards. Similarly, the study in Vubwi emphasized that inadequate or delayed funding could lead to abandoned projects or prolonged completion times.

4.3. Political involvement affects the completion of CDF projects

It was assumed that there was Political involvement in CDF completion of projects from the Members of Parliament (MPs), the study found out from the respondents. The results of the study indicated as presented in figure 3 indicates that 59 respondents representing 56.2% strongly agreed that Political involvement affected the completion of CDF projects followed by 31 respondents representing 29.5% who agreed, 8 of the respondents representing 7.6% were not sure while 7 respondents representing 6.7% strongly disagreed that Political involvement affected the completion of the CDF projects.

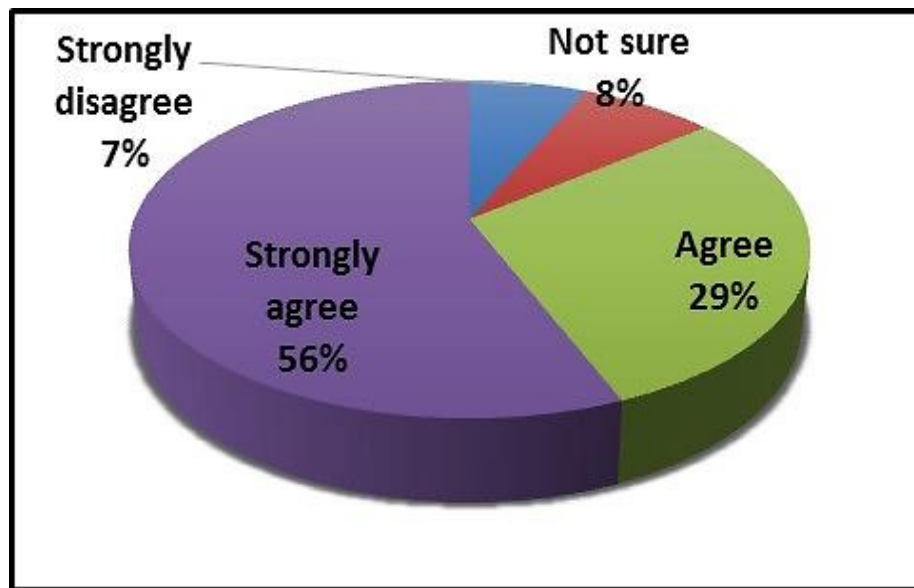


Figure 3: Political involvement affects the completion of CDF projects

Source: Survey, 2024

The study revealed that more than half of the respondents agreed that Political involvement affected the completion of CDF projects. This aligns with Thomas and Blomquist (2008), who found that political involvement in project implementation often resulted in projects being driven by political motivations rather than the actual needs of the community. In Vubwi, political involvement was not always aligned with the community's priorities, and this misalignment contributed to delays or the abandonment of projects.

4.4. Monitoring and Evaluation affect CDF project Completion

Monitoring and evaluation of projects was important for the successful completion of CDF projects. It was, therefore, necessary for projects to be monitored at all stages. On monitoring and evaluation of CDF projects, the respondents indicated that 41.9% agreed and 35.2% strongly agreed that monitoring and evaluation affect the completion of the CDF projects. The other

respondents indicated 17.1% strongly disagreed, 3.8% were not sure and 1.9% disagreed that monitoring and evaluation affect the completion of the CDF projects (**Figure 4**).

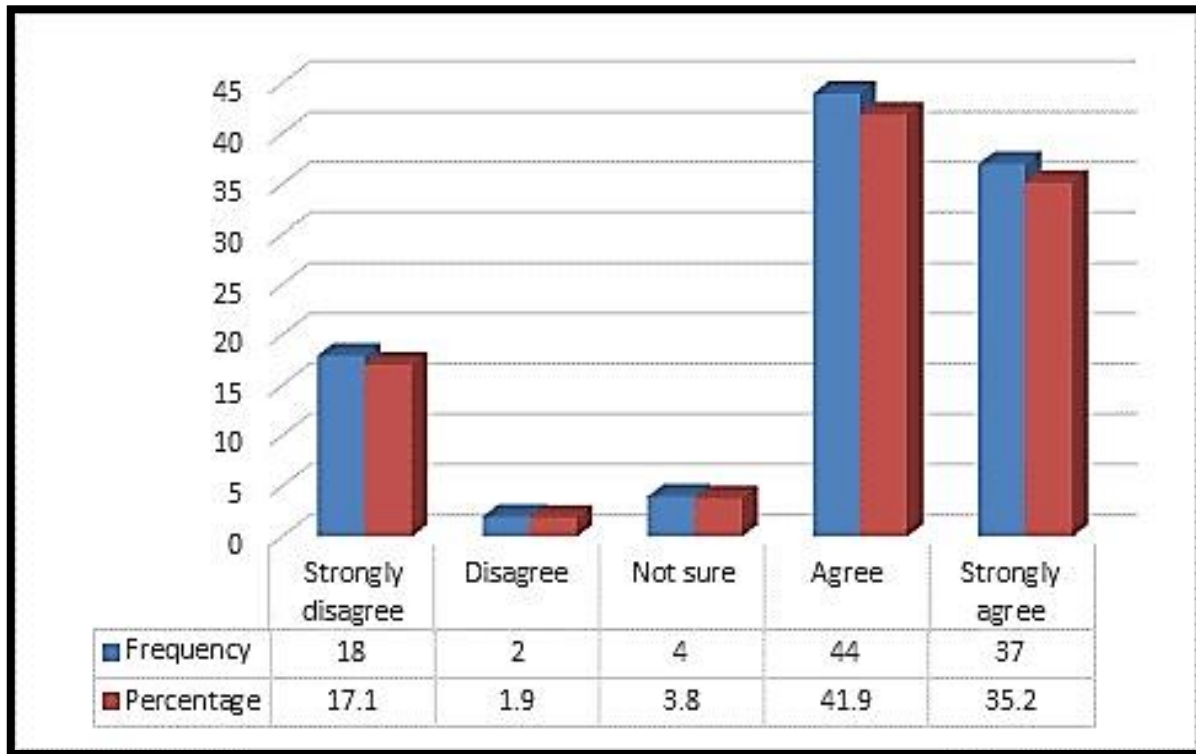


Figure 4: Monitoring and Evaluation affect Completion CDF projects

Source: Survey, 2024

The findings revealed that the lack of consistent monitoring and evaluation was a major contributor to project delays and incomplete CDF projects. The study indicated that projects in Vubwi often lacked adequate oversight, which led to poor performance and mismanagement. Without effective monitoring, there was limited accountability, and many projects failed to meet the expected standards. This finding supports Cronin’s (2011) assertion that M&E systems are crucial for detecting problems early and implementing corrective actions to keep projects on track.

4.5. Stakeholders Participation

The study found that the completion of CDF projects in Vubwi constituency involves a wide range of stakeholders in the Zambian decentralization framework. These stakeholders involved in managing CDF projects are as follows; CDFC, the local authority, local community, MP, MoFNP, PLGO, TAC and WDCs. The findings of this study reveal that the above stakeholders all play various roles in the CDF process. For example, when MoFNP disburses the CDF to the 156 constituencies, the local authority are starts the CDF process by inviting for applications or CDF project proposals from the local communities in Vubwi. Secondly, the project proposals are

brought forward to the council through the WDCs from the 9 wards for onward submission to the CDFC. Thereafter, the proposals are reviewed by the TAC, that is responsible for the provision of quality assurance, generation of Bill of Quantities (BoQs), and production of architectural drawings and designs for various infrastructural projects such as classroom blocks, staff houses, bridges, boreholes and health posts. At this point the local authority presents the project proposals to the CDFC that compiles a final list of projects that is submitted to the MLGRD for final approval. The MLGRD approves the projects, authority to spend the CDF and implement the proposed projects is provided to the local authority in form of circulars. The flow of information at this point continues to cascade to the WDCs and the local community about the approved CDF projects until the projects implementation commences.

The stakeholder participation framework is line with various legislations and policies that promote decentralization such as the National Decentralization Policy (NDP), the Urban and Regional Planning Act and the National Budgeting Act that have always advocated bottom up approach in development. The stakeholder participation framework is summarized is summarized in the figure below:

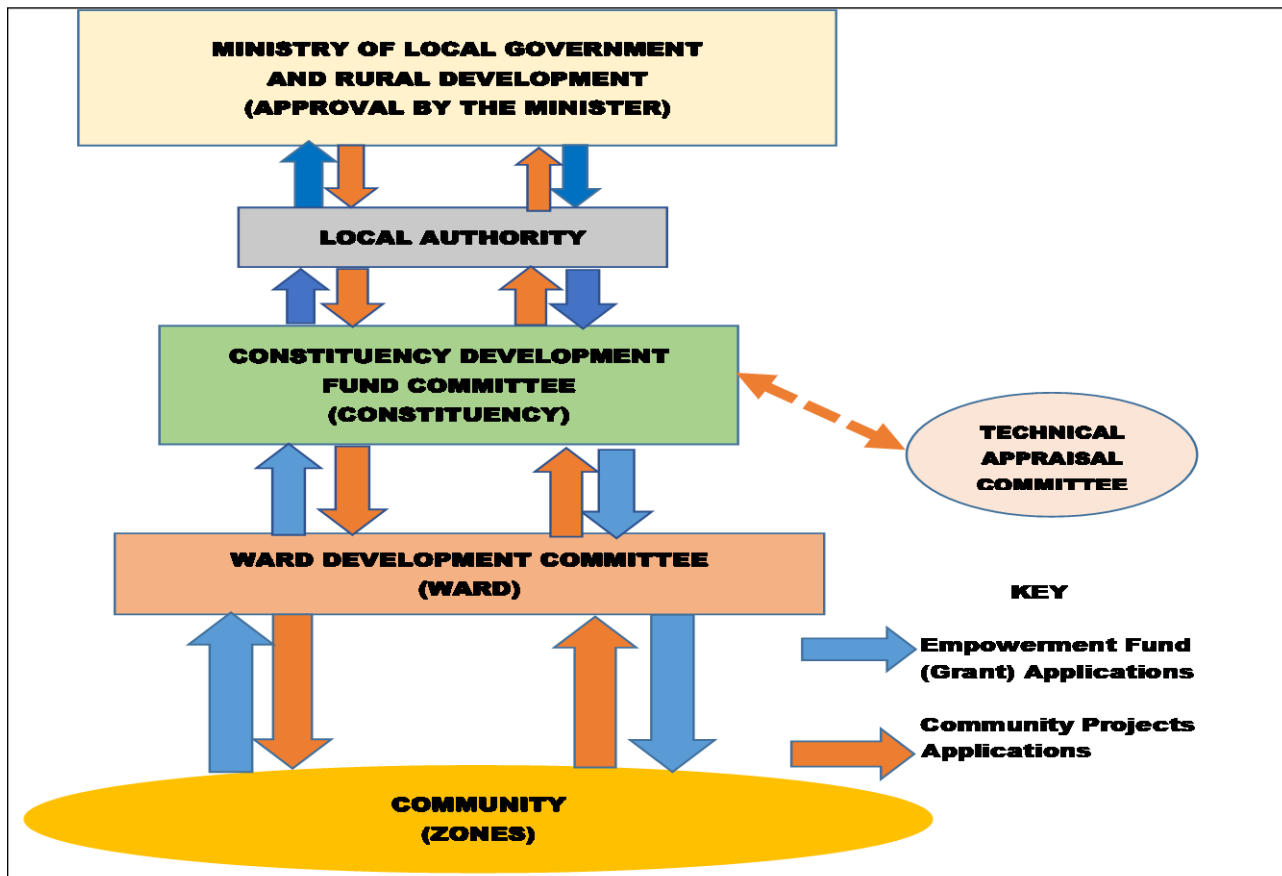


Figure 5: The extent of stakeholder participation in Vubwi Constituency

Source: 2021 WDC and 2022 CDF guidelines

The findings of this study on the extent of stakeholder participation are in line with those of Hanangama (2016), who evaluated the role of WDCs in improving community participation in CDF projects in Keembe constituency. According to this study, project identification was done by community in line with their needs through the WDCs.

According to the findings, in as much as participation in the completion of CDF projects extended to all stakeholders both within and outside the constituency, it was noted that the contribution of upfront materials such as sand, water, stones was a threat in the completions of CDF projects. This was so as this exercise was characterized by delays in the contribution of the same materials which adversely affected the project schedule by delaying the project completion and affecting shop materials such as paint and cement which had easily expire and dry. Secondly, the contributed upfront material was of poor quality. The poor-quality upfront materials had the potential of compromising the quality of works done.

4.6. Challenges faced by the Local Authority in disbursing CDF funds

From the one on one interview conducted 3 out of 4 officers (75%) observed that most of the community members delayed in contributing upfront material during project completion. The officers explained that this tendency consequently contributed to late implementation and completion of CDF projects. In an interview, one of the respondents explained that:

Despite being stakeholders in CDF, some communities within the constituency are not willing to contribute upfront material such as water, river sand, dambo and crushed stones towards labour based community projects they initiated within their wards. The whole idea of using labour based projects in the CDF projects was to promote community ownership for developmental projects that were identified by the same communities. Unfortunately, the delay in contributing upfront material led to delays in project completion and was a recipe for wasteful expenditure as other shop materials would expire in the process of waiting for upfront materials (Participant, 2024).

From the interviews conducted, it was also deduced that provision of quality upfront material by the local community was a challenge. One of the interviewed officers explained that:

While the contribution of upfront materials by local communities is a good principle, the contributed upfront materials are often poor and this therefore compromises the quality of works. For example, the crushed stones provided are unevenly crushed or sandy, and molded bricks are not well burnt in kilns (Participant, 2024).

During the interview, it was established from 2 officers that allocating time to perform various secretarial roles or duties and undertaking monitoring and evaluation was a challenge as the officers involved were few against competing tasks. The respondents explained that according to the CDF Act of 2018, the Planning, Works and Finance departments were jointly supposed to provide secretarial roles in the management of the CDF (Republic of Zambia,2018). However, these same departments are also secretariat in other existing committees in the district as such as the Planning Works and Development (PWD), Planning Subcommittee, the District Development Coordinating Committee (DDCC), and the Technical Appraisal Committee (TAC). On this challenge, one of the respondents clarified that:

Currently, the departments involved in the implementation of CDF projects are understaffed. These departments also play secretarial roles in various committees in the district therefore balancing time for secretarial roles and conducting field visits to collect data on the CDF projects is a challenge (Participant, 2024).

4.7. Vubwi CDF allocations and administrative costs

The Vubwi CDF allocations and administrative costs from 2017 to 2021 are presented in the table below:

Table 1: Vubwi CDF allocations and administrative costs from 2017 to 2021

S/N	Year	CDF Allocation	CDF Administrative Cost (Amount)
1	2017	K1,400,000	K20,000
2	2018	K1,600,000	K80,000
3	2019	0	0
4	2020	K1,600,000	K80,000
5	2021	K1,600,000	K80,000

Source: Field data, 2024

During the interview, it was discovered that the major challenge that was faced with regards the financial resources was that the K30.6 CDF allocation was not adequate in meeting the various community projects that were presented for funding. One of the respondents explained that:

Though the government has been consistent in disbursing the CDF, still the K30.6 million has not been adequate to cover various project proposals for funding that range from water, construction projects and roads from all the 9 wards of the constituency (Participant, 2024).

4.8. Summary of challenges and recommendations

Table 2: Summary of challenges and recommendations

NO.	Stakeholder	Thematic Area	Challenge	Recommendation
1	CDFC	Monitoring and Evaluation	Transport inadequacies	Procurement of 4x4 motor vehicles
		Risk Management	K 1.6m allocation has been inadequate	K30.6m allocation should be maintained
		Availability of Resources	K 1.6m allocation has been inadequate	K30.6m allocation should be maintained
2	Local Authority	Stakeholder Participation	Delays in contribution of upfront materials	Labour based projects should be replaced with full contracts
			Contribution of poor upfront materials	
		Monitoring and Evaluation	Understaffing	Recruitment of More staff to conduct M&E
		Risk Management	K 1.6m allocation has been inadequate	K30.6m allocation should be maintained
		Availability of Resources	K 1.6m allocation has been inadequate	K30.6m allocation should be maintained
3	Local Community	Stakeholder Participation	Contribution of upfront materials	Full time contracts
			Challenges with the application forms	Translating or simplifying the forms
			Occasional meeting with WDCs	Increase frequency
		Monitoring and Evaluation	No basic understanding on M and E	awareness

		Availability of Resources	K 1.6m allocation has been inadequate	K30.6m allocation should be maintained
4	TAC	Monitoring and Evaluation	Transport inadequacies	Procurement of 4x4 motor vehicles
5	WDC	Monitoring and Evaluation	Transport inadequacies	Provision of motorbikes or bicycles
			Non cooperative contractors	Provision of IDs by Local Authority
		Availability of Resources	Resources from CDF	Allocation of support

4.9. Strategies that can be put in place to improve the completion of CDF projects

From the one on one interview conducted with officers, most of them recommended that the long term solution to addressing the above cited challenges was by awarding full contracts for CDF projects so that the project contractors could be fully responsible for procuring the required materials. It was established that this type of contract was more efficient and effective as the contractor in such type contracts was fully responsible for procuring all the labour and shop materials they knew would be required for the project. The respondents also added this was one the best ways of ensuring that project completion was timely.

During the one on one interviews conducted, all the 4 (100%) officers from the local authority, confirmed that monitoring and evaluation was incorporated in the completion of CDF projects by the local authority. From the interviews, the respondents' added monitoring was done by visiting the project sites for purposes of data collection and provision of quality assurance to contractors on the ground carrying out works on the CDF ongoing projects in all the nine wards of Vubwi Constituency. According to the respondents, the frequency of monitoring CDF projects varied between weekly to fortnight basis depending on the availability of motor vehicles and other resources required to undertake monitoring.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the timely completion of community projects funded by the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in Vubwi District is influenced by several factors, including the awarding of full contracts to contractors, effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and the involvement of local stakeholders. However, logistical challenges, such as limited transport for monitoring, understaffing of M&E officers, delays in fund disbursement, and insufficient contingency funds, hinder project progress. To improve project outcomes, strategies such as increasing contingency fund allocations, enhancing M&E staffing, and involving local

communities more in oversight are essential. These measures can ensure better project completion within budget and on time.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All relevant stakeholders should be involved in planning and identifying CDF projects, with improved coordination between local councils, central government, and communities to ensure successful completion.
2. CDF funds should be allocated based on a formula that considers constituency size, poverty levels, and development needs, rather than a uniform allocation.
3. Strict laws and regulations should be enacted to minimize political interference in CDF project implementation, ensuring clear guidelines for project selection, procurement, and quality standards.
4. Regular monitoring and evaluation of CDF projects should be conducted to ensure accountability, transparency, and sustainability.

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