



Benefits of the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund on Community Development: A Case of Bahi District, Tanzania

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Abstract: This study examined the benefits of constituency development catalyst fund on community development in Bahi District Council, Dodoma Region of Tanzania through the descriptive design. A sample of 76 respondents was selected out of the 94-study population which involved Development Committees members in four schools and two Health Service Committees, one from each ward. It also involved ten Cell leaders from the two wards, CDCF Committee members and Heads of Departments from the District council. This study employed the quantitative approach where a structured questionnaire was used to collect data. SPSS was used to analyze data through descriptive statistics. The study concluded that the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund has been supporting and funding health facilities in different areas of the country. It has been a tool for Women and Youth empowerment. Due to such encouraging results, CDCF should continue funding community's project as intentionally designed.

Keywords: Benefits; Constituency Development; Catalyst Fund; Community.

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Introduction

Social Services that provide support and improve community life have been scarce for long. Different approaches that have been used to enhance social services have been proven unsuccessful in improving community's life and therefore community welfare escalates and leads to extreme poverty (Sulemana & Amakye, 2019; Awofeso & Irabor, 2020). Therefore, the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was established to assure community development by implementing programs through the coordination of elected representatives (Nawawi et al., 2020). Developing the community involves provision and empowerment of the community through initiation and improvement of projects in education, health, water, electricity and roads (Kumpulainen & Soini, 2019; Sinclair, 2020).

Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is a central government fund developed to cater for projects based on constituencies to improve the living standard. The funds are considered important because the prosperity of the local community is determined locally contrast to other development funds that pass from the central government through larger administrative bodies and bureaucracies (Awofeso & Irabor, 2020; Sulemana & Amakye, 2019; Sinclair, 2020). It aims at providing elected Members of Parliament the authority to comprehend developmental difficulties facing their communities.

CDF is as old as the development of human history (Lawrence, 2007; Tsubura, 2013). For instance, in America, CDF is traced in the 20th century. As waves of European immigrants flooded in the US, community development became a challenge. This experience led to the development of the "pork barrel" concept which uses a percentage of

government funds to recover undersupplied housing settings with a focus on raising community living standards as coordinated by the relevant Members of Parliament (Leyk et al., 2020). In India, the concept of CDF started in 1993 as the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) to enhance development in various zones so as to ensure improvement of the people's life (Mathiyazhagan, 2020; Sekhar, 2021). Members of Parliaments were given the authority to identify and implement development projects on behalf of the community within their respective constituencies and as a result, community welfare was realized and it positively materialized (Tsubura, 2013; Li, 2021).

To ensure that the level of living in communities is raised, CDF was established in most African countries to support ongoing development projects (Jepchirchir, 2021). CDF was first implemented in Zambia in 1995 with the intention of enhancing the community well-being in accordance with the communities' desires. Members of parliament were responsible for initiating and carrying out initiatives in their individual constituencies, just like in other nations (Chibomba, 2013; Lewanika, 2019). The improved state of the nation's infrastructure, including roads, hospitals and schools, was given priority.

In Ghana, CDF was recognized in 1996 as a means of addressing rural poverty specific to individual constituencies after the implementation of the District Assemblies Common Fund of 1994, which enforces members of parliament contribution of 5% (Belley, 2020; Serbeh, 2022). Nigeria, much like Ghana, launched the CDF in 2000 to enhance the community infrastructure (Adekunle, 2019; Awofeso and Irabor, 2020). This was accomplished by constructing boreholes, public health facilities, roads, parking lots, illuminating streets and other public spaces. In Kenya, CDF was established in 2003 as an ingenious innovation of the government to deal with the majority of rural and urban areas that had abhorrent living conditions (Wamugu & Ogollah, 2017).

Like many other African countries, Tanzania has fought for a very long time to enhance community living standards (Gekul, 2014; Rugeiyamu et al., 2018; Nguyaine, 2019). CDF was established in Tanzania with the same purpose of improving community living standard after the failure of other approaches such as Decentralization by the Devolution (D-by-D). In that regards, Constituency

Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF) was launched in 2009 to address community challenges.

The CDCF has proven to be an effective tool for improving the community development. However, given sufficient social facilities like health, education, sanitary water and roads that are still inaccessible, it has been proven that there is minimal effect on the community development (CPA, 2016; Nguyaine, 2019). This study, therefore, sought to establish the benefits of CDCF for Community Development, specifically, in Bahi District Council of the Dodoma Region in Tanzania. The area was chosen because of the inadequate social amenities that are effective for community development (Egidio, 2018). This is due to the question on whether CDF brings effective benefits to the community development and whether established projects are sustainable and whether they change the life style and welfare of the people (Egidio, 2018; Mukuri and Wamitu, 2020).

Literature Review

Fundamental objectives of the Community Development Fund are to support projects with immediate social and economic impact to citizens (Carpenter et al., 2021). The Community Development Fund (CDF) contributes heavily in improving community lives, alleviating severe poverty and bringing general development (Kumpulainen & Soini, 2019). Kimenyi, (2005) asserted that CDF is designed to fight poverty through the implementation of development projects at the local level and particularly, those that provide basic needs such as education, healthcare, water, agricultural services, security and electricity. The CDF's operational structure and the mosaic expenditure decisions at the parliamentary jurisdictions have been characterized as innovative and ingenious (Carpenter et al., 2021).

Nyaguthii and Oyugi (2013) revealed that some of the benefits gained from CDF include improving infrastructure such as road and helping to lower transportation costs. CDF has further helped to build police posts in crime-prone areas and improved security and public safety in some of the areas. Given the mosaic of expenditure decisions on a myriad of local projects and because of the relaxed rules on how and where expenditures are to be incurred, the program can be construed as a delegated form of fiscal decentralization (Bagaka, 2008; Nyaguthii & Oyugi, 2013; Kumpulainen & Soini, 2019; Carpenter et al., 2021).

It has been noted that the degree of local community involvement and the capacity of the beneficiaries to hold those responsible for project implementation accountable determine the effectiveness of the CDF that will improve the community's standard of life (Kimenyi, 2005; Carpenter et al., 2021). The CDF's impact has only been measured when the project has been having people involved in the creation of projects and only when there is effective participatory budget (Casey et al., nd.). Constituency elements that restrict recipients' ability to participate and track the usage of Constituency Development Funds are likely to provide even more wasteful consequences (Kimenyi, 2005; Gathoni and Ngugi 2016). Public service delivery through Development Fund in developed states such as America has been noted to be effective contrary to most African countries where development fund is inefficient (Gathoni and Ngugi 2016)

Despite the establishment of CDF in most African countries to devolve funds to the grassroots, people's economic well-being remains hampered (Simiyu et al., 2014). Recent literature questioned on whether CDF brings effective benefits to community's development. It has been questioned whether CDF funded projects developed at the constituency are sustainable and whether they change the life style and welfare of the people (Mukuri and Wamitu, 2020). Gathoni and Ngugi (2016) asserted that majority of devolved funding projects remained intangible and thus CDF become insignificant to sustainable projects. As a result,

many projects have been delayed due to lack of public support (Gathoni & Ngugi 2016); Simiyu et al., 2014).

Methodology

The study used a descriptive study design. A sample of 76 respondents was selected out of the 94-study population which involved Development Committees members in four schools (two secondary and two primary schools from two wards) and two Health Service Committees, one from each ward. It also involved ten Cell leaders from the two wards, CDCF Committee members and Heads of Departments from the District council. The study used purposive sampling in order to obtain the required information from the field.

This study employed the quantitative approach where a structured questionnaire was used to collect information and descriptive statistic was used to analyze data. The reliability test yielded the Cronbach's alpha of above 0.7. The following mean scores interpretation scale was used: 3.50-4.00= strongly agree, 2.50-3.49 = Agree, 1.50-2.49= disagree and 1.00-1.49 = strongly disagree.

Results and Discussion

This section provides results about the benefits of the CDCF on the community development. Respondents were exposed to five items in the questionnaire whereby they had to indicate their agreement or disagreement.

Table 1: Benefits of Constituency Development Catalyst Fund on Community Development

SN	Items	Mean	Std. Dev.	Interpretation
1	Health facilities are well equipped by CDCF	3.11	1.184	Agree
2	Women and Youth are empowered by CDCF through grants	3.18	1.186	Agree
3	There are water projects supported by CDCF	3.18	1.230	Agree
4	Roads are maintained by CDCF and used in all seasons	3.26	1.215	Agree
5	Schools are supported by CDCF	3.34	1.195	Agree

As indicated in table 1, the mean scores for each item ranged between 2.50 and 3.49 meaning respondents indicated to agree with all items in the table. They particularly agreed that health facilities are well equipped by CDCF, women and youth are empowered by CDCF through grants, water projects are supported by CDCF, roads are maintained by CDCF and are used in all seasons and that schools are supported by CDCF. The same results are found in the studies of by Abdalla (2014); Gathoni and Ngugi (2016) and Mgani et al. (2020). For instance,

the results from Mgani et al. (2020) in the study about Potentials of Constituency Development Catalyst Fund act of 2009 in enabling the implementation of CDCF Projects in Vwawa Constituency, Tanzania, revealed that CDCF have been facilitating construction of various infrastructure such as roads and physical buildings that are beneficial for most of the Tanzania communities. The same is found to the study of Abdalla (2014) about the effectiveness of the constituency Development catalyst fund in

reduction of non-income poverty in Zanzibar. The study exposed that, there are variety of social services supported by CDCF including education and water projects that has directly impact to the community. The study further made clear that the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF) is beneficial.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is concluded that the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund has been supporting and funding health facilities in different areas of the country. It is tool for Women and Youth empowerment. It further become a catalyst for water, roads and school projects which are very crucial for development and welfare of the people. Due to such encouraging results, CDCF should continue funding community's project as intentionally designed. It is further recommended that the amendment of the CDCF Act of 2009 should define appropriate feedback mechanisms in order to permit early interventions and thereby ensuring efficacy.

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