



ASSESSMENT OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION STRATEGIES ON YOUTH LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM IN ISINGIRO DISTRICT, SOUTHWESTERN UGANDA

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ABSTRACT

This study set out to conduct an assessment of Monitoring and Evaluation strategies on Youth Livelihood Programme in Isingiro District. The study assessed the appropriate strategies for improving the monitoring and evaluation of YLP, challenges and procedures undertaken in the process of monitoring and evaluation. The study adopted both descriptive and case study research designs with both qualitative and quantitative approaches for data collection and analysis. The study employed 20 respondents who were leaders in the district. Both interview and questionnaire methods of data collection were used. Data from questionnaires was analyzed using the descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of SPSS. Analysis of qualitative data was done manually using thematic content analysis and narrative reasoning. The study revealed that DLG has no competent staff to manage data base, fast internet for upgrading information gathered during monitoring and evaluation process, no complaint desk to handle grievances, youth representatives are not oriented and taught conflict resolution, officers are not empowered to deal with non-complaint beneficiaries, M&E system is not linked to the MIS of Social Development Sector. However, the study found out that the DLG has a database of beneficiaries, resources are given to right beneficiaries, and entries of beneficiaries are properly managed, there is clear record of defaulters since the inception of the program and that the program involves many stakeholders in monitoring the process. The study established that the Monitoring and Evaluation process of YLP is engulfed with a number of challenges including poor transport facilities, lack of coordination between financial institutions and stakeholders, inadequate funding of the M&E process, lack of transparency and accountability in the entire program as well as the originality of the YLP as a top-down approach in its design. The study identified a number of procedures undertaken during the process of M&E including group assessment and approval at the initial stage, joint coordination between local councils and the ministry, field visits to the projects, intelligence information from security agencies, periodic reports as well as submission of the M&E report to the CAO and subsequently to MGLSD. The study recommends that the whole programme be overhauled and be operated directly by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development through CBOs, CSOs and financial in order to bypass political interference and influence peddling.

KEY WORDS: *Monitoring, Evaluation, Strategies, Youth, Livelihood and Programme*

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Programs to actively support young people's employment prospects have existed for decades in industrialized countries; however, they are relatively new in developing nations (AfDB, OECD dev, UNDP,

UNECA. 2012). In a broad sense, youth livelihood interventions support young people's means to earn a living, and include training, public service, youth entrepreneurship, and financial services. More narrowly, many practitioners define youth livelihood

programs as activities targeting particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups in the informal economy, with a specific focus on self-employment (ILO, 2012).

The high level of unemployment among the youth is a concern worldwide, as it is a recipe for organized crime, lawlessness, political instability and social conflicts. In Uganda, the Youth Employment Report (UBOS September 2012), indicated that the total labour-force in the country was comprised of 4.4 million youth. About 32% of the estimated 6.5 million youth in the country were jobless, about 2 million of which were literate; and 2 million were under-employed. Fifty-percent 50% of the economically active youth were not engaged in income-generating employment (MFPED, 2012). Youth self-employment is by far the most important form of youth work. The survey revealed that 60% of employed young people were self-employed, while 70% of the employed youth in rural areas were engaged in agriculture. Seventy-percent (70%) of the youth in urban areas were engaged in the service sector. Informal employment accounts for the highest proportion of the employed youth outside agriculture.

Youth unemployment is more pronounced in urban areas than in rural areas, as a result of rural – urban migration. It is estimated that 67% of the youth get engaged in some form of employment by the age of 18 years. This large number of youth that enter the labour market at an early age is associated with the high school dropout rates. There are strong linkages between unemployment, underemployment, shortage of decent jobs and poverty. Eradication of poverty requires sustained macro-economic stability coupled with an enabling environment for investments that contributes to productive employment creation (Gemma, 2014).

Knowing of the overwhelming rate of unemployment the government of Uganda came up with Youth Livelihood Programmes as a means to promote youth entrepreneurship and create employment. To date, many of youth projects have been funded in all the 112 districts in the country and Isingiro District has not been left out. The government expected that all the youth projects will continue with their operations and thus achieve the objective of employment creation and self-reliance among the youth (Ahaibwe, 2014). However, statistics reveals that only 25% of the projects that were funded since 2012 are operational while 75% are non-operational (MGLSD, 2016). Despite the fact that advocacy in favor of development work continues to increase with new tools, techniques and advances in project management methodologies, many youth projects continues to fail due to lack of proper monitoring and evaluation. Information on the extent of application of monitoring and evaluation of Youth Livelihood Programmes has not had a comprehensive empirical study in Uganda. This study

assessed this phenomenon with specific reference to Isingiro District of Southwestern Uganda.

Relevance

In Uganda, youth livelihood program is a strategy is almost a decade and has been emphasized by the government for all this period. However, the program is less popular amongst as trends of unemployment are still going high. This study chose monitoring and evaluation strategies used by stakeholders in this program to ascertain whether the challenges emanate from the way the program is management or the underlying factors failing. Thus, the study came with policy recommendation to inform key stakeholders and policy makers on what ought to be done in order to revamp youth livelihood program.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Like any change implemented in an institution, implementing monitoring and evaluation comes with certain challenges and opportunities. If the opportunities to establish an effective monitoring and evaluation framework are not met, challenges arise, making the organisational environment hostile to monitoring and evaluation. Challenges for implementing an effective monitoring and evaluation framework can be either internal or external. According to Schiavo-Campo (2005), implementation challenges may include: poor management, lack of capacity, lack of focus and lack of financial support. External factors on the other hand may include: a weak political system and a lack of sufficient government cooperation and coordination.

The project budget should provide a clear and adequate provision for monitoring and evaluation activities. The M&E budgetary allocation should clearly be delineated from the main project budget so that M&E unit is accorded some autonomy in utilization of its resources (Gyorkos, 2003). M&E budget should be about 5 to 10 percent of total projects' budget which will give the M&E unit adequate resources to ensure its effectiveness (Kelly and Magongo, 2004). However, according to Gitonga (2012), there is no specific percentage to be allocated for M&E but normally varies between 2.5% and 10% depending with the overall budget and the project. Gitonga further states that the more participatory M&E is, the higher its budget. Frankel and Gage (2007) concur with Gitonga by stating that there is no set formula for proportion of project's budget to be allocated to M&E. Most donors and organizations recommend between 3 to 10 percent of the project's budget. The general rule of thumb is that the M&E budget should not be too little as to affect the accuracy and credibility of results and neither should it consume much resources to the extent of interfering with other projects activities.

Communication of information and results is the responsibility of the senior management with the support of project managers (Nyonje, Kyalo & Mulwa, 2015). The M&E process should be committed to improving the lateral linkages among project and programme staff, including feedback processes, for learning purposes. Analysis of the existing or possible linkages across programmes and projects should be as critical, objective and exhaustive as possible. Managers, including at the senior level, must be involved in the entire process (Hunter, 2009).

3.1 METHODOLOGY

The study used both descriptive and case study research designs, where both qualitative and quantitative approaches for data collection and analysis were used. The study targeted 20 respondents who comprised mainly leaders in the district. These include CAO, RDC, District Community Development officer, District Youth Councilor, Town Clerks (3) and community development officers from sub counties and town councils. Both interview and questionnaire survey methods of data collection were used to collect

data. Data from questionnaires was analyzed using the descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of data analysis software - Statistical Package for Social Sciences Package (SPSS). Analysis of qualitative data was done manually using content analysis, notes were written and scripts were analyzed by coding; where information of similar code categories was assembled together meaningfully.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Appropriate strategies for improving monitoring and evaluation of youth fund

The analysis was done using the percentages, mean and the standard deviation. Data was collected using a five point Likert scale. The mean above 3 indicates an agreement of respondents, a mean of 3 shows undecided and a mean of below 3 shows disagreement by respondents. The standard deviation (Std.) of close to 1 show agreement, while the standard deviation of close to Zero show the disagreement of the respondents. The analysis grouped strongly agree and agree to mean agree; and strongly disagree and disagree to mean disagree. The elicited responses were presented in table 1.

Table 1: Descriptive statistical results on appropriate strategies for improving monitoring and evaluation of youth fund (n=14)

Responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Mean	Std.
Is there any existing data base at the DLG	3 (21.4%)	7 (50%)	2 (14.3%)	1 (7.1%)	1 (7.1%)	3.87	.73
DLG has competent staff to manage data base for the youth	1 (7.1%)	3 (21.4%)	3 (21.4%)	5 (35.7%)	2 (14.3%)	2.52	.11
Staff are often taken for refresher courses	4 (28.6%)	6 (42.9%)	2 (14.3%)	1 (7.1%)	1 (7.1%)	3.97	.83
The resources are given to right beneficiaries	2 (14.3%)	9 (64.3)	1 (7.1%)	2 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	4.11	.86
Officers are clearly managing entries of youth taking funds	7 (50%)	4 (28.6%)	1 (7.1%)	2 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	4.07	.87
DLG fast internet for upgrading information	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (14.3%)	7 (50%)	5 (35.7%)	.33	.18
There is clear record of defaulters since the inception of the program	5 (35.7%)	4 (28.6%)	2 (14.3%)	2 (14.3%)	1 (7.1%)	3.87	.78
The program involves many stakeholders in monitoring the process	6 (42.9%)	7 (50%)	1 (7.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4.52	.91
A complaint desk has been created at the district to handle grievances	2 (14.3%)	2 (14.3%)	1 (7.1%)	5 (35.7%)	3 (21.4%)	2.97	.33
Youth representatives are oriented and taught conflict resolution	1 (7.1%)	3 (21.4%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (35.7%)	4 (28.6%)	2.11	.36
Officers are empowered to deal with non-complaint beneficiaries	2 (14.3%)	3 (21.4%)	1 (7.1%)	5 (35.7%)	3 (21.4%)	2.07	.24
The M&E system is linked to the Management Information System (MIS) of Social Development Sector	1 (7.1%)	2 (14.3%)	2 (14.3%)	4 (28.9%)	5 (35.7%)	2.33	.13

Table shows that majority of the respondents (71.4%) agreed with the statement put to them that there is an existing data base at the District Local Government. This is confirmed by the mean of 3.87 which is greater

than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.73 which is close to zero. This is an indication that the District Local Government has a clear record for Youth Livelihood Programme Funds’ beneficiaries which guarantees

improved monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

It was also found out that majority of the respondents (50%) disagreed with the statement put to them that the District Local Government has competent staff to manage data base for the youth. This is proved by the mean of 2.52 which is below 3 and the standard deviation of 0.11 which is close to zero. This implies that the District Local Government lacks competent staff to manage database for the youth which may lead to compromised monitoring and evaluation process.

The study found out that majority of the respondents (71.5%) agreed with the statement put to them that staff are often taken for refresher courses. This is confirmed by the mean of 3.97 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.83 which is close to 1. This implies that there are measures being taken to improve the management of Youth Livelihood Programmes particularly training of staff on management issues through refresher course which may empower them with sufficient skills to handle the programme more efficiently and lead to its success.

From the study, results show that majority of the respondents (81.6%) agreed with the statement put to them that resources are given to the right beneficiaries. This is proven by the mean of 4.11 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.86 which is close to zero. This is an indication that to a larger extent resources of Youth Livelihood Programmes are given to the right beneficiaries drawing evidence from the present findings herein.

Also, the study found out that majority of the respondents (78.6%) agreed with the statement put to them that officers are clearly managing entries of youth taking funds. This is confirmed by the mean of 4.07 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.87 which is close to 1. This shows that from the disbursements, officers in charge of handling the distribution of youth fund properly manages the entries into the databases for easy tracking.

Findings further show that majority of the respondents (85.7%) disagreed with the statement put to them that District Local Government has fast internet for upgrading information. This is clearly showed by the mean of 1.33 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.18 which is close to zero. This implies that Isingiro District Local Government has not internet connectivity a factor that makes monitoring and evaluation of Youth Livelihood Programme somehow difficult as this creates loopholes in terms of information sharing between the local government and the central government particularly Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development.

The study found out that majority of the respondents (64%) agreed with the statement put to them that there is clear record of defaulters since the inception of the program. This is proven by the mean

of 3.87 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.78 which is close to zero. This implies that the list of defaulters since the beginning of the programme exists but what is not clear is how these defaulters are handled.

It was further found out that majority of the respondents 92.9% agreed with the statement put to them that the program involves many stakeholders in monitoring the process. This is confirmed by the mean of 4.52 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.91 which is close to 1. This implies that programme is monitored by different stakeholders but what is not clearly present is the efficiency and coordination of these stakeholders.

Findings show that majority of the respondents (57.1%) disagreed with statement put to them that a complaint desk has been created at the district to handle grievances. This is pointed out by the mean of 2.97 which is less than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.33 which is close to zero. This shows that the complaint desk for handling grievances of Youth Livelihood Programmes is not properly defined in Isingiro District Local Government.

Results also revealed that majority of the respondents (64.3%) disagreed with the statement put to them that youth representatives are oriented and taught conflict resolution. This is approved by the mean of 2.11 which is less than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.36 which is close to zero. This is a clear indication that there is no streamlined mechanism in place to handle conflicts and grievances that may arise from the programme at any given step since the inception of this programme.

It was also found out that majority of the respondents (57.1%) disagreed with the statement put to them that officers are empowered to deal with non-complaint beneficiaries. This is confirmed by the mean of 2.07 which is less than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.24 which is close to zero. This clearly stipulates that the Youth Livelihood Programme lacks a mechanism to handle issues of deviation especially emanating from the beneficiaries at different stage in the process ranging from the initial up to payback period.

The study revealed that majority of the respondents (64.6%) disagreed with the statement put to them that the M&E system is linked to the Management Information System (MIS) of Social Development Sector. This is evidenced by the mean of 2.33 which is less than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.13 which is close to zero. This implies that there is high possibility that the M&E system at the district is not linked to the Social Development Sector. This ultimately compromises the whole process of monitoring and evaluation of youth livelihood programme which begins from the grassroots by the local government.

4.2 CHALLENGES FACING MONITORING AND EVALUATION TEAM

The analysis was done using the percentages, mean and the standard deviation. Data was collected using a five point Likert scale. The mean above 3 indicates an agreement of respondents, a mean of 3

shows undecided and a mean of below 3 shows disagreement by respondents. The standard deviation (Std.) of close to 1 show agreement, while the standard deviation of close to Zero show the disagreement of the respondents. The analysis grouped strongly agree and agree to mean agree; and strongly disagree and disagree to mean disagree. The elicited responses were presented in table 2.

Table 2: Descriptive statistical results on the challenges facing monitoring and evaluation team (n=14)

Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Mean	Std
Monitoring team face many challenges during M&E process	4 (28.6%)	6 (42.9%)	2 (14.3%)	2 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3.89	.87
Transport facilities affect the technical team	5 (35.7%)	4 (28.6%)	3 (21.4%)	2 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3.68	.81
Failure of loan officers in other financial agencies, to be facilitated at national and district levels to properly monitor the YLF	3 (21.4%)	6 (42.9%)	2 (14.3%)	1 (7.1%)	2 (14.3%)	3.51	.72
Officers are not empowered to compel defaulters to pay back the fund	6 (42.9%)	5 (35.7%)	1 (7.1%)	2 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3.48	.79
There is inadequate funding to monitor the youth fund	6 (42.9%)	5 (35.7%)	3 (21.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4.12	.85
There is lack of transparency and accountability in the entire program	3 (21.4%)	7 (50%)	2 (14.3%)	2 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	4.41	.93
The program design was developed using a top-down approach	4 (28.6%)	6 (42.9%)	1 (7.1%)	1 (7.1%)	2 (14.3%)	3.67	.87

Results from table 2 indicate that majority of the respondents (71.5%) agreed with the statement put to them that monitoring team face many challenges during Monitoring and Evaluation process. This is confirmed by the mean of 3.89 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.87 which is close to 1. This clearly shows that the monitoring team face a myriad of challenges in the youth livelihood programme monitoring process which compromises the whole process.

The study found out that majority of the respondents (64.3%) agreed with the statement put to them that transport facilities affect the technical team. This is evidenced by the mean of 3.68 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.87 which is close to 1. This shows that transport facilities is one of the challenges hindering monitoring and evaluation of the youth livelihood programme in Isingiro District Local Government.

It was also found out that majority of the respondents (64.3%) agreed with the statement put to them that failure of loan officers in other financial agencies, to be facilitated at national and district levels to properly monitor the Youth Livelihood Programme. This is proved by the mean of 3.51 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.72 which is close

to 1. This is an indication that there is lack of coordination between financial institutions who are partners in the Youth Livelihood Programme and the District Local Government which compromises monitoring evaluation process of this programme in the long run.

The findings also found out that majority of the respondents (78.6%) agreed with the statement put to them that officers are not empowered to compel defaulters to pay back the fund. This is proven by the mean of 3.48 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.79 which is close to 1. This is an indication that there is inadequate motivation towards officers enabling them ‘to follow up the defaulters and this greatly compromises the whole process of monitoring the programme.

Findings further show that majority of the respondents 78.6% agreed with the statement put to them that there is inadequate funding to monitor the youth fund. This is confirmed by the mean of 4.12 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.85 which is close to 1. This attests that the District Local Government lacks sufficient funding to conduct the monitoring process of Youth Livelihood Programme Monitoring and Evaluation.

The study also found out that majority of the respondents (71.4%) agreed with the statement put to them that there is lack of transparency and accountability in the entire program. This is evidenced by the mean of 4.41 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.93 which is close to 1. This is an indication that the programme lacks ethical standards that guarantees effective monitoring and evaluation of this programme.

The study revealed that majority of the respondents (71.5%) agreed with the statement put to them that the program design was developed using a

4.3 Procedures undertaken during the process of monitoring and evaluation

Table 3: Descriptive statistical results on procedures undertaken during the process of monitoring and evaluation (n=6)

Procedures of M&E	Frequency	Percentage
Group assessment and approval	5	83.3
Joint coordination between lower local councils, district and the ministry	3	50
Field visits to the projects	2	33.3
Intelligence information through PISO, GISO and DISO is generated	1	16.7
Periodic reports (weekly, monthly and quarterly) are made by relevant authorities	4	66.7
Submission of the M&E report to the CAO and subsequently to MGLSD	3	50

Table 3 indicate that majority of the respondents 83.3% revealed that group assessment and approval is one of the most apparent steps taken in the monitoring and evaluation process. This was followed by 66.7% of the participants who reported periodic reports (weekly, monthly and quarterly) are made by relevant authorities whereas the least 16.7% mentioned intelligence information through PISO, GISO and DISO is generated. This implies that there are various procedures undertaken while conducting monitoring and evaluation processes of Youth Livelihood Programmes in Isingiro District Local Government.

5.0 DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The study found out that (71.4%) of the respondents agreed that there is an existing data base at the District Local Government. This is an indication that the District Local Government has a clear record for Youth Livelihood Programme Funds’ beneficiaries which guarantees improved monitoring and evaluation of the programme. Existence of data base helps in information generation that helps in overall performance evaluation of the youth livelihood programme. This finding is in line with Hunter, (2009) who expressed that the M&E process should be committed to improving the lateral linkages among project and programme staff, including feedback processes, for learning purposes. Analysis of the existing or possible linkages across programmes and projects should be as critical, objective and exhaustive as possible. Managers, including at the senior level,

top-down approach. This is confirmed by the mean of 3.67 which is greater than 3 and the standard deviation of 0.87 which is close to 1. This is an indication that the populace were not involved in policy formulation which makes its implementation difficult to handle as there is little familiarity of the programme features with the youth’s needs in rural communities making it hard for the overall programme to catch the interest of the general public in Isingiro District even before the monitoring and evaluation takes course.

must be involved in the entire process. This facilitates quick decision and policy adjustments in case of loopholes in the whole system.

It was found out that (78.6%) of the respondents reported that there is inadequate funding of the monitoring and evaluation the youth livelihood programme. This leads to lack of motivation and limited resources followed of the monitoring and evaluation process something that renders the whole process idle in the long run. This is finding is confirmed by Gyorkos (2003) who reported that the project budget should provide a clear and adequate provision for monitoring and evaluation activities. In the same vain Kelly and Magongo (2004) added that the M&E budgetary allocation should clearly be delineated from the main project budget so that M&E unit is accorded some autonomy in utilization of its resources. M&E budget should be about 5 to 10 percent of total projects’ budget which will give the M&E unit adequate resources to ensure its effectiveness. This clearly shows that monitoring and evaluation is a significant aspect of project that requires to be fully funded in its fullest potential. In an event of lack of sufficient funds, there is a high likelihood of overall poor performance of the whole programme.

Findings further stressed that (71.5%) reported monitoring team face many challenges during M&E process. It was found out that most of these challenges are both structural and technical in nature. It

was revealed that there are numerous loopholes in the whole system of monitoring and evaluation ranging from inadequate facilities to lack of moral support that has made it practically impossible for the monitoring and evaluation process to take its course. This finding concurs with prior findings by Schiavo-Campo (2005) who expressed that implementation challenges may include: poor management, lack of capacity, lack of focus and lack of financial support. External factors on the other hand may include: a weak political system and a lack of sufficient government cooperation and coordination. A combination of these challenges may not allow the process of monitoring and evaluation to take its course if not properly address and catered for at the beginning of the project.

5.1 CONCLUSION

The present study identified that there a number of strategies meant for improving monitoring and evaluation of Youth Livelihood Fund are not followed and even the few which are followed are not done up to the standard required to enable successful operation of the Youth Livelihood Programme. The study revealed that District Local Government has no competent staff to manage data base for the youth, fast internet for upgrading information gathered during monitoring and evaluation process, no complaint desk has been created at the district to handle grievances, youth representatives are not oriented and taught conflict resolution, officers are empowered to deal with non-complaint beneficiaries and that the M&E system is not linked to the Management Information System (MIS) of Social Development Sector. The study established that the absence of these key strategies in the Monitoring and Evaluation process of Youth Livelihood renders it idle and less significant. However, the study found out that there exit data base at the District Local Government, staff are often taken for refresher courses, resources are given to right beneficiaries, officers are clearly managing entries of youth taking funds, there is clear record of defaulters since the inception of the program and that the program involves many stakeholders in monitoring the process. It can be concluded that the absence of some strategies compromises the whole process of Monitoring and Evaluation of Youth Livelihood Fund in Isingiro District.

The study established that the Monitoring and Evaluation process of Youth Livelihood Programme is engulfed with a number of challenges including poor transport facilities, lack of coordination between financial institutions and stakeholders at the District Local Government, inadequate of the M&E process, lack of transparency and accountability in the entire program as well as the originality of the Youth Livelihood Programme as a top-down approach in its design. The study concludes that majority of these

challenges are structural and are embedded in the 'architectural design' of the Youth Livelihood Fund programme making it hard to allow smooth monitoring and evaluation of the whole process.

The study identified a number of procedures undertaken during the process of monitoring and evaluation including group assessment and approval at the initial stage, joint coordination between lower local councils, district and the ministry, field visits to the projects, intelligence information through PISO, GISO and DISO is generated, periodic reports (weekly, monthly and quarterly) are made by relevant authorities as well as submission of the M&E report to the CAO and subsequently to MGLSD. The study concluded that the existence of these programmes is just formality as most of these procedures are politically motivated with less technical input and outputs associated with them. This predicts compromised monitoring and evaluation process which in-turn yield compromised results at the end of the whole process.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The study found out that there is lack of transparency and accountability in the whole programme of Youth Livelihood Programme. This calls for an overhaul of the whole system and design a new mechanism of extending Youth Livelihood Funds either through established financial institutions or community based organisations on a direct approach. This can help to minimize cases of political interference and influence peddling.

The study found out that there is lack of internet connectivity in the District Local Government to share database resources with the MGLSD. This can be done by introducing government system that will not only help to solve issues of Youth Livelihood Funds but also other issues of service delivery under decentralization system of government.

Inadequate funding of Monitoring and Evaluation process under youth livelihood programme was sighted as a challenge in this policy. This can be dealt with through the approach of dealing with civil society organisation and public servants at the sub county level. Civil society organisation by default conduct monitoring and evaluation of government programmes. This requires a simple approach of integrating them in the system through mutual agreement.

Local leaders particularly the youth need to be trained and empowered with the skills to advocate and sensitize fellow youth on effective utilization of Youth Livelihood programme through profitable projects that brings about quick returns. Failure of youth projects is another compromising factor to the monitoring process of these projects.

Put in place a strong institutional and M&E framework: An effective M&E framework with measurable indicators should be designed to monitor performance of the YLP. Government through relevant ministries like the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development should take the lead in the design, promotion, fundraising, supervision, and evaluation of the YLP as opposed to being the implementers. Government involvement in implementation of the youth funds increases the risk of failure as beneficiaries tend to look at the program as a political tool. The implementing agencies who are key to the success of the program should design appropriate and youth friendly lending mechanisms and products, empower the youth clients through entrepreneurship, business and management training and ongoing counseling and mentoring.

5.3 RESEARCHERS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

The study unearthed the existing nature of monitoring and evaluation strategies used on Youth Livelihood Programme in Isingiro District Local Government. The study revealed the fact that Monitoring and Evaluation is undertaken for formality reasons as a measure to fulfil a policy requirement and give a report as prescribed in the youth livelihood programme. Not tangible impact upon which a reflection can be drawn to make a difference in the process and the entire process of monitoring and evaluation. The study brought to light that most appropriate strategies that would be adopted to improve monitoring and evaluation of the youth livelihood programme are completely absent in Isingiro District Government, an indication that the programme operates under closed 'curtains'. This raises a need to assess the operation of the whole programme not only in Isingiro District but also other areas of Uganda.

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