

**BENEFICIARY PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT MONITORING AND
EVALUATION FOR PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY
A CASE STUDY OF THE P4P AND PRRO PROJECTS OF THE WORLD
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ABSTRACT

Participatory project monitoring and evaluation for sustainability is seen as the drive for the success of many projects around the world and many project implementers are incorporating this idea into their respective designs. This study was a motivation to research about because of the quest for sustainability of livelihoods, socioeconomic developments and business practices. The purpose of this research is to make known to project team members of various projects the significant importance of participation because it is a process that empowers people and communities through acquiring skills, knowledge and experience, leading to greater self-reliance and self-management. This was facilitated by the development of some objectives which are; to assess the extent of beneficiary participation in the M&E practices of the World Food Program's selected projects for this study which are the Purchase for Progress (P4P) and the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), and the efforts made by the project implementers to ensure the sustainability of the projects. Indicators were developed for the study variables, i.e. participatory M&E and sustainability which will facilitate the achievement of the objectives. This project will be significant to future researchers of participatory M&E, project implementers and designers so that they include target beneficiaries in their programs and throughout the project cycle not necessarily only in M&E. This will strengthen accountability to donors, the efficient allocation of resources, and the sharing of lessons learnt for the implementation of necessary corrective actions in future projects so as not to make similar errors, with the overall benefit of enhancing the sustainability of their interventions to the primary or target beneficiaries.

The study was both quantitative and qualitative, with the target population of 203 respondents being the beneficiaries of the P4P and PRRO projects. A sample size was derived from the stratified sampling technique so as to ease data collection, which is gotten from questionnaires in a Likert scale from 5 to 1. The respondents (project beneficiaries) rated the questions based on their individual perceptions. Data collection was analysed and from this analysis.

The researcher found that the respondents for P4P participated in all aspects of PM&E and the project implementers ensured to a great extent that the sustainability of the project lasts in the long term. This guaranteed the sustainability of the project in the sense that their capacities were built to be able to continue with the project's activities, and also their livelihoods were improved. But on the other hand for PRRO, the researcher found that the respondents participated to a very small extent in PM&E and the project implementers did little to ensure the sustainability of the project and to that effect, this sustainability was not guaranteed.

The researcher therefore recommended that from the outcome of P4P, PM&E methodologies are effective strategies for building beneficiaries' capacities, facilitating various forms of empowerment and identifying strategies to increase sustainability and success of projects. The research findings suggest that implementing these strategies and conducting PM&E in PRRO and also increasing the number of trainings, should contribute to increase its sustainability.