

# Automated M&E system for NGOs

**A** new web-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for NGOs has been developed.

The system developed by Academy for Educational Development (AED) and Advantech Consulting with funding from Rockefeller Foundation will enable NGOs to efficiently monitor their activities to ensure they stay on track to achieve contractual and internal targets.

It will also ensure regular reporting to stakeholders by NGOs will also be accurate and consistent.

NGOs adopting the system would appreciate M&E for their own use, and define the level of regular reporting required for their own program management

AED regional director, Ms Liza Kimbo said improved M&E is expected to directly impact on improved service delivery by NGOs to their beneficiaries

Ms Kimbo said during the official launch of the system at Holiday Inn, Nairobi, on June 10 that it would improve focus on core activities with reduced need for basic M&E technical assistance at NGOs over time. The level of M&E technical assistance required by NGOs will be raised resulting in deeper and more meaningful engagement with donors.

A single platform will enable integration of national and other funders' M&E systems for improved program management

Improved systems at lower cost will result in more funding available for beneficiaries

M&E is becoming critical in assessing performance in both private and public sectors. Identification, accurate collection and rigorous analysis of performance indicators are considered essential for managerial feed-back and public accountability in the delivery of services.

Aid agencies are required to conform to stringent project reporting requirements in order to satisfy the wide range of stakeholders.

Many NGOs lack the capacity to employ both M&E professionals and in-house ICT staff who are well skilled to understand M&E and develop appropriate tools. This has led to development of inferior M&E systems that do not meet internal and donor requirements.



Board Executive Director, Amb Peter Ole Nkuraiya and Rockefeller Foundation representative, Ms Lilian Chege, during an M&E BPO Demonstration and Review Workshop at a Nairobi hotel. The Academy for Educational Development (AED) organised the event.

The system was demonstrated to NGOs and other stakeholders at Holiday Inn, Nairobi on June 10. Present at the function included AED regional director, Ms. Liza Kimbo, Rockefeller Foundation's Lilian Chege and officials of Advantech Consulting.

While officially opening the function, Board executive director, Amb Peter O. Ole Nkuraiya, said the web-based M&E system could help NGOs improve compliance with submission of annual returns.

He said the Board was committed to ensuring accountability among the more than 6,000 registered NGOs and was using annual returns form commonly known as Form 14 to track the organisations' activities.

NGOs are expected to provide information annually to the Board on among others contact address, finances, personnel, projects and governance.

"Information derived Form 14 helps the Board to deliver on its mandate, which includes regulating the NGO sector and advising the Government on the contribution of NGOs in national development," Amb Nkuraiya said.

The executive director said the

Government recognized the contribution of NGOs in national development, noting the sector contributed more than Sh100 billion annually and is responsible for the employment of more than 100,000 people.

"For this reason, the Government considers the NGOs as key partners in development. The Government is committed to creating an enabling environment for the sector to thrive," he added.

The Board, he said, recognised the importance of monitoring and evaluation of NGO projects to ensure they benefit their target public. The Government will also get value for tax incentives it gives to the NGOs, he said.

He said many NGOs had a lot of information on their projects and beneficiaries but had not been automated.

He urged NGOs to adopt the new M&E system and challenged AED and Advantech Consulting to look for a way of automating the preparation of Form 14 for NGOs to send it directly and electronically to the Board.

Ms Kimbo said they would take the challenge seriously. She asked NGOs to adopt the M&E system, saying they stood to gain a lot.