ABSTRACT

In 2010, world population reaches 6.9 billion, with 5.7 billion or 82 per cent living in developing countries. Verifying whether targets are met, tracking what is working or what needs to be changed, and evaluating the effects of the chosen approach are essential for any performance incentive program, and indeed, many of the potential pitfalls can be mitigated with careful monitoring and supervision. Monitoring requirements may motivate population growth managers to improve their information systems, but they may also encourage falsification. To ensure that information is accurate, programs can rely on a combination of independent evaluations and provider self-assessments with random audits and penalties for discrepancies. The dependent population, or the proportion of the non-working population (ages 0-14 years and 65 and older) has important economic impacts on the ability of a nation’s economy to grow and develop. In most of sub-Saharan Africa, the concern is the younger dependent population as life expectancy in many countries is well below 65 years. Having a high dependent population requires significant social and economic investment in public services (i.e. schooling and health) and means that the working population has to support a higher number of dependents, thus draining the economy of resources. At the same time, should the young population survive to adulthood, this population eventually supports the dependent population. Rwanda’s population projections suggest a general slow decline of the dependent population over time. Based on the data on the dependency ratio in 2000, half of all Rwandans were below the age of 15 or above the age of 65. By 2005, there was a slight decline to 45%. If fertility did not change in Rwanda, the constant projection suggests a slight continued decline in the dependent population, and then a slow rise to stay around 46% of the population being dependent. The demand for M&E is a key to the creation of a successful country M&E in the management of population growth. ‘Success’ is viewed here as having four dimensions: Reliable monitoring information and evaluation findings, a high level of utilization of M&E findings, sustainability into the future and country ownership.